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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **China**
SUBJECT **Port Information: Tsingtao**

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PLACE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE ACQUIRED
(BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

RESPONSIVE TO	
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DATE DISTR. **29-Jul 54**

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SOURCE **British merchant mariner. Officer on a ship which called at Tsingtao, China, from 31 Jan to 3 Feb 54 to unload caustic soda and to load ground peanuts.**

The Navy interviewing officer assigned an evaluation of "F-2" to the report and stated that source was friendly and cooperative.

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- The following information is based on personal observations of the source.
- Alphabetical Designators In connection with information reported herein, specific points of interest are noted on photograph of HO Chart 5489 by the following alphabetical designators:
 - Anchorage
 - First Berth
 - Second Berth
 - Third Berth
 - Oreloading Wharf
 - British Merchant Freighter (12 thousand tons)
 - Unidentified Merchant Freighter (nine thousand tons)
 - Seaman's Club
 - Naval Installation
 - Naval Harbor Craft Basin
 - Mineral Stockpile
 - New Shed Construction
- Dates of Call and Conveyance Source visited subject port 31 Jan to 3 Feb 54 in a 7274 grt, 441'7" length, and 28' draft merchant freighter.
- Cargo Vessel carried inbound cargo of nine thousand tons caustic soda in drums, and loaded nine thousand tons ground peanuts in 200 pound bags for discharge at Hamburg, Germany, for transshipment by barge to consignee in Czechoslovakia.
- Weather Weather was cold with average temperature of 32°F and low of 22°F. Strong winds were north-northwest. Light snow fell throughout period of call; no ice was seen in harbor.

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25X1A

- 2 -

6. Anchorage Vessel anchored in authorized anchorage area at designator A on morning of 31 Jan 54. Vessels will not be taken into subject port at night.
7. Pilot Pilot boarded vessel from a small 150-200 horsepower motor launch which was flying the international pilot flag and showed no visible armament. Pilot spoke English, performed his work satisfactorily, and was watched carefully by two armed police that accompanied him.
8. Preliminary Inspection boarding party of 12 military control and customs officials armed with pistols came aboard at anchorage and conducted a preliminary inspection which lasted 1½ hours. Party boarded from a lightly armed patrol craft which was similar to Soviet SC, modified R-boat class. Binoculars, radio, cameras, and fathometer were sealed, and a cursory search for stowaways was made. Crew member accompanied party while remainder of crew mustered on deck.
9. Approach to Inner Harbor All navigational instruments were sealed during preliminary inspection at anchorage, and vessel proceeded to berth under pilot's direction without use of navigational instruments.
10. Berths Vessel first berthed to partially unload caustic soda at wharf #1, labeled designator B. Vessel shifted to berth at wharf #2, labeled designator C, to complete unloading of caustic soda. Vessel then shifted back to wharf #1 at berth labeled designator D to load ground peanuts. Wharves #1 and #2 are concrete construction with wooden facing. Height of wharf deck from water level was 10-12'. Every wharf is rigged with a public address system and loudspeakers over which music interspersed with propaganda talks in Chinese is heard daily from 0630-0730, 1130-1230, and 1700-1900.
11. Boarding Inspection Boarding inspection at first berth was conducted by a thorough 10-man customs searching party which was particularly interested in concealed dope and explosives.
12. Cargo Handling Vessel used its own cargo handling gear in both loading and unloading operations. Unloading began 310700H Jan 54 and was completed in 10 hours. Loading required 48 hours and was done by fast-working stevedore gangs who carried bags of ground peanuts in hand carts from stockpile to wharf edge. Stevedores worked carefully and no bags were broken in entire loading operation. Available bags of cargo on wharf stockpile were 400 tons light, and additional bags to complete loading were brought onto wharf by railroad cars. Two iron ore transporter-type cranes were observed on wharf #5 at designator E.
13. Tugs Six low-powered tugs of 700 horsepower were observed assisting vessels in entering, shifting, and leaving port.
14. Surveillance One armed sentry was stationed at gangway on the quay. Two security police who boarded vessel with pilot at anchorage remained aboard throughout period of call and left vessel when pilot was dropped. A single-engine land-based plane passed over vessel each day between 0600-1200 when it was approaching and departing from subject port.
15. Merchant Shipping Present A 12 thousand ton British GLEN LINE merchant freighter was berthed at designator F. An unidentified merchant freighter of nine thousand tons was anchored at designator G, loaded with timber. A coastal freighter of Hong Kong registry was present at an undisclosed location, and several Chinese Communist coastal freighters were observed in port.
16. Liberty Ashore Crew members were allowed ashore without restriction on numbers upon presentation of card to gangway sentry until 2300 curfew. After three violations of this curfew, a crew's shore privilege will be revoked by authorities. Crew members were invited to the Seaman's Club, located at designator H, where they were cordially welcomed and served refreshments. Vessel's officers received propaganda date books presented by the National Committee, Seaman's Trade Union of China.
17. Naval Installation A naval installation is located in the area of designator

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23X1A

- 3 -

- I. Source at no time was close enough to observe naval craft present or base facilities. Naval harbor craft were moored in basin labeled designator J.
18. Export to Soviet Bloc Source commented that a reliable friend in business in China expressed the opinion that the Soviet Union is bleeding China of raw materials which are being shipped in large quantities to Soviet bloc countries, particularly the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. This observer said the Chinese are getting little machinery and finished products in return, and they are getting "bloody well tired of it."
19. Mineral Stockpiles Huge stockpiles of unidentified minerals for export were observed on wharf #6, labeled designator K. Mineral material was covered by sheds and temporary roofs.
20. New Shed Construction Sheds were being constructed on wharf #1 in the area of designator L.
- [On file - CIA Library is photograph of HO Chart 5489 with appropriate alphabetical designators.]

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LIBRARY SUBJECT AND AREA CODES

7-12/725.2	531L(ZM)
7-11/725.2	27M(CL)
7-11/711.211	631L
756.547	631L
756.541	631L
756.543	631L
756.545	631L

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PORT INFORMATION: TSTINGTAD
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1 ENCL (CHART, RE TITLE, REC'D)

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1-Log/0 Encl-Log

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